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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of: | : |
| Nils Virving | : |
| | : |
| International Application No.: | : Group Art Unit: N/A |
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| For: REFINING ELEMENT | : |
| | : |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.